

## Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SAM-01 EB-11 OMB-01 IO-14

OIC-04 AEC-11 DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /148 W

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O P 161454Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2794

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 4398

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN

REPS MAY 15, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: INFORMAL SESSION ON MAY 15 IN WHICH ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY FRG REP, NETHERLANDS REP, AND US REP, AND EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK AND GDR REP OESER, TOOK PLACE IN AMICABLE ATMOSPHERE. KHLESTOV TOOK INITIATIVE TO CONFIRM AGREEMENT THAT SUBJECT MATTER WAS "WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET." AS ALLIES HAD EXPECTED FROM EARLIER BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH EAST AT OUTSET OF THIS ROUND, EASTERN REPS EMPHASIZED NEED FOR PARTICIPATION IN REDUCTIONS BY ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSET. EASTERN REPS CONTENDED THAT MAINTENANCE

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OF THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY REQUIRED

REDUCTION BY ALL FROM THE OUTSET. WESTERN REPS ARGUED THAT EAST SHOULD NOT RESTRICT ITSELF TO TAKING POSITION OF PRINCIPLE ON THE ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET IN FAVOR OF REDUCTION OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY FOR EAST IN WESTERN PHASING APPROACH. EASTERN REPS RESPONDED BY ARGUING THAT WEST TOO SHOULD NOT TAKE CATEGORICAL POSITION OF PRINCIPLE AGAINST REDUCTION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSET, BUT SHOULD IDENTIFY PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IT SAW IN THAT APPROACH.

2. DISCUSSION, WHICH WAS IN LOW KEY, PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. IT WAS NOTABLE HOWEVER THAT EAST HAD DROPPED POSSIBLY CONNECTED, EAST DID NOT BRING UP THE SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL. GDR REP SEEMED TO GIVE AS MUCH EMPHASIS TO SHORT-COMINGS OF ALLIED PHASING APPROACH AS TO REDUCTIONS BY ALL FROM OUTSET. ALL THREE EASTERN REPS SAID WESTERN PHASE APPROACH WOULD PERMIT BUILD-UP BETWEEN PHASES. KHLESTOV GOT SIDE-TRACED IN EFFORT TO CLAIM THAT BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS FORCES STATIONED IN FRG BELONGED TO CATEGORY OF "FOREIGN FORCES" BUT BACK-TRACKED FROM THIS POSITION WHEN CHALLENGED BY NETHERLANDS AND FRG REPS. IT WAS AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC OF WHERE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET IN THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION, WHICH IT WAS AGREED WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 22. END SUMMARY. REMAINING TEXT OF REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTEL. HUMES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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